NEW LOCALITY RECORDS FOR SOME BUTTERFLIES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Abstract

New locality records are given for Heteronympha paradelpha paradelpha Lower, Everes lacturnus australis Couchman and Danis hymetus taygetus (C. and R. Felder) in New South Wales.

Nymphalidae

Heteronympha paradelpha paradelpha Lower

Common and Waterhouse (1981) recorded Heteronympha paradelpha paradelpha as occurring from the Blue Mountains and Sydney southwards to Victoria and H. p. deervalensis Burns as occurring in an area encompassing Deervale, Ebor and Dorrigo in New South Wales and from Stanthorpe in Queensland. De Baar (1977) recorded the latter subspecies from Bald Rock, in northern New South Wales, and Wallangarra in Queensland, with Harslett (1990) adding records for nearby Queensland localities. Mayo et al. (1989) record H. p. paradelpha above 1100 m at Barrington Tops. The two subspecies are separated by about 200 km and are easily recognised on depth of colour and pattern. No differences could be detected between the genitalia of a male with the pattern of H. p. paradelpha from Woodford (Blue Mts.) and one with H. p. deervalensis pattern from Ebor, in material from the Australian Museum.

Additional localities: 1 female, Upper Allyn, near Eccleston, 10.iii.1970; 1 female, same locality, 27.iii.1970 (D.K. McAlpine, G.A. Holloway); 1 male, same locality, 27.ii.1971 (J.V. Peters); 1 female, Tuglo Wildlife Refuge, 49 km N of Singleton, 11.iii.1989 (A.S. Smithers); 1 female, same locality, 19.ii.1989 (C.N. Smithers). Tuglo and Upper Allyn are at approximately the same latitude (32°15'S) to the south of Barrington Tops. The specimens listed here also agree well with the southern subspecies *H. p. paradelpha* in colour and pattern.

Lycaenidae

Everes lacturnus australis Couchman

Everes lacturnus australis is common north of Brisbane but more southerly populations are scattered and of somewhat limited extent. South of Port Macquarie the only recorded New South Wales localities appear to be Barrington Tops and Cessnock.

Specimens collected in the intervening area: 5 males, 3 females, Tuglo Wildlife Refuge, 49 km N of Singleton, 22-27.iii.1988 (J.V. Peters and C.N. Smithers); 1 male, same locality, 12.iii.1989 (C.N. Smithers); 1 female, Lister Park, Upper Allyn, 28.ii.1971; 1 female, near Eccleston, 28.ii.1971 (J.V. Peters).

Danis hymetus taygetus (C. and R. Felder)

Danis hymetus taygetus is uncommon south of Port Stephens and is certainly rare in the Sydney area. Haines (1969) considered it worthwhile recording its occurrence at Bayview, a northern coastal suburb of Sydney, when several specimens were taken or observed in April and June, 1968. This note records a single specimen seen near the Pacific Highway at Mount White, about 50 km north-west of Sydney, on 16.ii.1989. It was seen flying in a shady gully, where it settled on the leaves of several plants. Alphitonia excelsa (Fenzel) Reiss. ex Benth. (Rhamnaceae), its larval food plant, is reported to grow in another gully about a kilometre to the east on the other side of the expressway.

References

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